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Letter dated 20 November 2018 from the Permanent Representatives of France, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

France, Germany and the United Kingdom wish to bring to the attention of the Security Council actions on the part of Iran which are inconsistent with paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015).

As the Security Council is aware, in paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015),

> Iran is called upon not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology, until the date eight years after the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action adoption day or until the date on which the International Atomic Energy Agency submits a report confirming the Broader Conclusion, whichever is earlier.

The phrase "ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons" in paragraph 3 includes Missile Technology Control Regime category I systems. By definition, these systems are capable of delivering at least a 500-kilogram payload to a range of at least 300 kilometres and are therefore inherently capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

On 30 September and 1 October, Iran launched Zolfaqar and Qiam short-range ballistic missiles on targets in the town of Hajin, Dayr al-Zawr Governorate, Syria.

While we take note of Iran's official position on these missile strikes as a response to a terrorist attack in Iran, we assess that Iran's firing of the short-range ballistic missiles described above amounts to ballistic missile activity inconsistent with paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015). Furthermore, this ballistic missile activity is destabilizing and increases regional tensions.

The Zolfaqar and Qiam short-range ballistic missiles both meet the Missile Technology Control Regime category I criteria and, as such, are inherently capable of delivering nuclear weapons. Iran's missile strikes clearly constitute "activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons" and "launches using such ballistic missile technology", which Iran is called upon not to undertake under paragraph 3 of annex B to resolution 2231 (2015).

Furthermore, we strongly condemn the messages written on the missiles, as reported in Iranian and international media, which threatened the United States of America, Israel and the Saudi royal family. This aggressive rhetoric is unacceptable.

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We trust that this information will assist the Security Council in promoting adherence to resolution 2231 (2015) by all States. We respectfully request the Secretary-General to submit a thorough report on Iran's ballistic missile activity inconsistent with resolution 2231 (2015).

We also propose that these launches be discussed in the Security Council's 2231 format, the structure established to facilitate monitoring the resolution's implementation, so that the Council can discuss appropriate responses.

(*Signed*) François **Delattre**
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Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Karen **Pierce**
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